

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:598

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

NATIONAL ROAMING TARIFF

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**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently reduced the calling level for national roaming tariffs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the percentage cut in the tariff;
- (c) the present rates of STD and local mobile tariff in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to free the national roaming; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not implementing the same so far?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) Vide 55th amendment to Telecom Tariff Order(TTO), 1999 dated 17-06-13, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India(TRAI) has reduced the ceilings for national roaming tariff. The order has become effective from 01-07-2013. The reductions made in the ceiling tariffs are indicated in the table given below:-

Item	Ceiling tariffs prior to recent amendment from 01-07-13	Ceiling tariffs ceiling tariff	Reduction in
Charge for outgoing local voice call	Rs.1.40 per minute	Re.1.00 per minute	29%
Charge for outgoing long distance (inter-circle) voice call	Rs.2.40 per minute	Rs.1.50 per minute	38%
Charge for incoming voice call	Rs.1.75 per minute	Re.0.75 per minute	57%
Charge for outgoing local SMS	Forbearance	Re.1.00 per minute	-
Charge for outgoing long distance (inter-circle) SMS	Forbearance	Rs. 1.50 per minute	-

(c) As per the current tariff framework in vogue, tariff for mobile services is under forbearance, except for roaming services. The operators have flexibility to offer different tariff packages targeted at different customer user groups, depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations, subject to the condition that these tariffs have to be consistent with the regulatory principles of non-discrimination, non-predation etc. Tariff for mobile services are offered as a bouquet consisting of various components and as such, it is not possible to specify the prevailing STD and local mobile rates in the country.

(d) & (e) It is one of the objectives of National Telecom Policy-2012 to work towards "One Nation-Free Roaming".